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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY
INSPECTOR OF THE HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Harpenden Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In view of the increasing pressure of work of local authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper the Minister of Health has directed that interim reports only should be submitted for the year 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 3,157.
 Population (census 1931) 8,349.
 Estimated population, 17,000.
 Estimated population (Registrar-General), 14,680. X
 Number of inhabited houses, 3,629. X
 Rateable value, £130,145.
 Sum represented by penny rate, £520.
 Birth rate per 1,000 population, 11.4
 Death rate per 1,000 population, 11.5
 Deaths under one year per 1,000 births, 42.

MORTALITY TABLE.

Of the 170 deaths during the year 17 were due to Cancer or Malignant Disease, 55 to Heart Disease, 8 to Circulatory Diseases, 8 to Pneumonia, 12 to Bronchitis and 2 to Tuberculosis.

Infant Mortality.

Of the 7 deaths of infants under one year, one was due to Premature Birth and 2 to Congenital Malformations.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	30	Whooping Cough	19
Diphtheria	2	Measles	20
Erysipelas	5	Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .	2		

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1940.

Age periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1				
5				
10	1			
15				
20				
25				
35	1		1	
45	1	1		
55	1	1		
65				
Total	4	2	1	

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

INSPECTIONS etc.

Houses inspected in routine	16
Houses inspected on complaint	23
Houses inspected after infectious disease	35
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	10
Inspections of Cowsheds	8
Inspections of Dairies	12
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	21
Smoke Observations	27
Inspections of Schools	6
Nuisances from animals abated	7
Premises connected to sewers	3
Cesspools abolished	1
Cesspools emptied	16
Premises Disinfected	35
Shops inspected under the Shops and Public Health Acts	22
Meat condemned as unfit for food	77 lbs.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year ...	2
By Local Authority	26

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected
for housing defects (under Public Health
or Housing Acts) 39
- (b) Number of inspections made for
the purpose 43
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses
(included in sub-head 1.
above) which were inspected
and recorded under the Housing
Consolidated Regulations,
1925 and 1932 13
- (b) Number of inspections made for
the purpose 16
3. Number of dwelling houses in a state so
dangerous or injurious to health as to
be unfit for human habitation nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive
of those referred to under the preceding
sub-head) found not to be in all respects
fit for human habitation 8
5. Number of defective dwelling houses rendered
fit in consequence of informal action by the
local authority or their officers 8

The Council now own a total of 188 houses. On the Westfield Estate, there are 178, consisting of 64 two-bedroom houses, 110 three-bedroom houses and 4 four-bedroom houses, and 10 at Kinsbourne Crescent, consisting of 4 two-bedroom houses and 6 three-bedroom houses.

The total quantity of sewage treated at the Sewage Works was 182,841,000 gallons, compared with 148,385,000 gallons in 1939.

The Rainfall was 29.120 compared with 32.542 in 1939.

At the end of the year there were 4 registered Slaughterhouses, 10 Butcher's Shops, 7 registered Dairies, 5 registered Cowkeepers and 22 registered retailers of Milk, 12 licenced Slaughtermen.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

W. H. JOHNSON, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E.,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor.

